

Advocare Election Manifesto 2022



Advocare is an independent, community-based, not-for-profit organisation supporting and protecting the rights of older people and standing up against elder abuse.

For 25 years we have proudly helped older Western Australians access the right supports, information and protections available to them.

We are a proud member of the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN).

We lead the Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse WA to ensure a consistent effort across many WA organisations and we are opinion leaders, nationally in this space.

We call for all political leaders to protect and improve the lives of older Australians by addressing the wage crisis in our aged care sector.

Advocare is urging all politicians to take a stand to protect older Australians.

The incoming Federal government must address the wage crisis in our aged care sector.

Our aged care workers are some of the lowest paid people in Australia.

In 2022, a Level 1 aged care worker earns just \$21.90 per hour – this is **less** than a Level 1 retail worker who earns \$22.33 per hour*. It is inconceivable that someone is paid more for stocking shelves at the supermarket than someone caring for our most vulnerable.

Our aged care workers have been at the frontline of the pandemic supporting our older people when their families could not, under strict working conditions. They are exhausted and stressed, not knowing how they will support their own families.

Low wages and the rising costs of living makes working in the sector unsustainable – a one-off payment is not enough. It does not provide long-term financial security.

Advocare demands this issue is addressed as a matter of urgency.

The 2022-23 Federal Budget investment in training new and current aged care workers is a step in the right direction, however it does not address the fundamental issue of pay.

Advocare supports an increase in award wages through the Fair Work Commission Work Value Case.

By paying people an adequate salary, the aged care industry will be able to attract, support and retain this essential workforce. It will crucially, attract the right type of workers who genuinely care for older people.

In 2021 a national study** reported, **1 in 6 people** aged over 65 are being abused – this is unacceptable. We need to support our dedicated aged care workers to stay in the sector, as this rate of elder abuse is alarming.

The health and wellbeing of older Australians will suffer if we do not pay our aged care workers an appropriate wage.

Advocare demands the care of older Australians to be a priority.

<https://services.fairwork.gov.au/find-my-award>

General Retail Award and Aged Care Award ** (National Elder Abuse Prevalence Study, 2021, Australian Institute of Family Studies)



Advocare

Empowering older people in WA

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